

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method utilizing a team of heterogeneously sharing network interfaces providing primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

receiving data for processing by said team, two or more of the team operating in parallel;

assigning processing of said received data to a first member of said team; and if said data is secondary use processing, determining if the first member lacks a capability required for processing said data, and if so, distributing processing of said data to at least one second member of said team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising: setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising:

temporarily setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces supporting the capability.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing said data includes encrypting said data according to IPSEC.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

8. (Currently Amended) An accessible medium having associated instructions for heterogeneously sharing a team of network interfaces providing primary and secondary use processing of data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine, directs the machine to:

receive data for processing by said team, two or more of the team operating in parallel;

assign processing of said received data to a first member of said team; and if said data is secondary use processing, determin if the first member lacks a capability required for processing said data, and if so, distribute processing of said data to at least one second member of said team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

9. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 8, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team.

10. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 8, in which network interfaces have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

temporarily set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team.

11. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

distribute processing of said data according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces supporting the capability.

12. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

direct the processor to encrypt said data according to IPSEC.

13. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

direct the processor to receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

14. (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

identifying active and failed network interfaces of said team, two or more of the team operating in parallel;

receiving data for processing and transmission by said team;
if said data is primary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

if said data is secondary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team, wherein if a first network interface of said team lacks a capability required to process said data, then transparently routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting the capability.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
loading a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving, by a first one of said team of network interfaces, a portion of said received data for processing; and
identifying the capability is required for processing said portion.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and
receiving data for secondary use processing from said operating system.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein an application programming interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and
receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

21. (Currently Amended) An accessible medium having associated instructions for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine, directs the machine to:

identify active and failed network interfaces of said team, two or more of the team operating in parallel;

receive data for processing and transmission by said team;
determine if said data is primary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and
determine if said data is secondary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team, wherein if a first network interface of said team lacks a capability required to process said

data, then routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting the capability.

22. (Original) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

load a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive a portion of said received data for processing by a first one of said team of network interfaces;

identify the capability is required for processing said portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

25. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.